

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 ~~5~~, wherein the catalyst for oxidizing said particles comprises at least one element selected from transition metals, alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, and the rare earth metals.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 3 for combustion treatment of carbonaceous particles collected on a filter situated in an exhaust circuit of an internal combustion engine, comprising contacting said particles with a gas mixture comprising at least nitrogen dioxide generated within the exhaust circuit of said engine, and thus combusting the particles, said particles having been seeded prior to combustion of the particles with at least one oxidation catalyst therefor,

wherein the oxidation catalyst ~~the compound comprising at least one rare earth~~ comprises cerium in a mixture with at least one other element selected from zirconium, alkali metals, alkaline earth metals and transition elements.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 2, wherein the element(s) are present in the catalyst independently of one another in the form of their respective oxide or otherwise.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein the oxidation catalyst seeded at the level of the carbonaceous particles is incorporated therein via ~~the introduction into the fuel of one of its derivatives~~ a derivative of the oxidation catalyst.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein the oxidation catalyst is seeded at the level of the carbonaceous particles via its introduction alternatively into ~~the~~ air at ~~the~~ an intake of the engine, or into ~~the~~ an exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) circuit, or at the exhaust ~~itself~~ upstream of the ~~particle~~ filter.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein the amount of oxidation catalyst seeded at the level of the carbonaceous particles is between 0.1% and 30%, expressed by weight of the catalytic element relative to the weight of the carbonaceous particle.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 9, wherein the amount of oxidation catalyst is at least 0.5%, expressed by weight of the catalytic element relative to the weight of the carbonaceous particle.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein ~~the~~ a concentration of nitrogen dioxide required for the combustion of said carbonaceous particles is adjusted by a change in ~~the~~ control of the engine, performed continuously or

discontinuously ~~se-as~~ to induce the burning of the carbonaceous particles collected on the filter.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein ~~the a~~ concentration of nitrogen dioxide required for the combustion of said carbonaceous particles is generated catalytically.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein the nitrogen dioxide is generated by catalytic conversion of nitrogen monoxide.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is performed in a step prior to ~~the~~ oxidation of the carbonaceous particles.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is performed upstream of the filter containing the carbonaceous particles to be oxidized.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 14, wherein the conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is performed by contacting the exhaust gas with a conversion catalyst, CC, for converting the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide, ~~which is the conversion catalyst~~ present on a support ~~which is~~ situated upstream of the filter containing the carbonaceous particles to be oxidized and through which said exhaust gas passes.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein ~~the~~ conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is performed ~~concomitantly~~

concomitantly with the oxidation of the carbonaceous particles by the nitrogen dioxide thus formed.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 17, wherein the catalytic conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is carried out at the a level of the filter on which the carbonaceous particles to be oxidized are collected.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 18, wherein the catalyst permitting the conversion of the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is present at the level of the filter containing the carbonaceous particles to be oxidized.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 10, wherein the catalyst for converting the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is selected from those based on platinum, palladium, ruthenium, rhodium and their mixtures and simple oxides or mixed oxides.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 20, wherein the catalyst is deposited on a support of the an alumina, titanium, silica or zeolite type in a pure or doped form.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 21, wherein the catalyst for converting the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is based on platinum deposited on a lanthanum-doped titanium oxide.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 12, wherein the catalyst for converting the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide is combined with a NO_x trap system.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 23, wherein the NO_x trap system is a composition comprising a support based on an oxide of cerium, an oxide of zirconium and an oxide of scandium or of a rare earth other than cerium and an active phase based on manganese and on at least one other element[,] selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals and rare earth metals or a composition comprising a supported phase containing manganese and at least one other element selected from terbium, gadolinium, europium, samarium, neodymium and praseodymium and a support based on cerium oxide or a mixture of cerium oxide and zirconium oxide.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4 5, wherein the nitrogen dioxide is generated by passing the exhaust gases through a support on which is deposited at least one catalyst for converting the nitrogen monoxide to nitrogen dioxide so as to generate nitrogen dioxide which is subsequently transported by the exhaust gases to a metal filter comprising the carbonaceous particles to be oxidized, which filter is located downstream of the support and at a distance sufficient for the nitrogen dioxide coming into contact with said carbonaceous particles to be present in an amount sufficient to ensure their effective oxidation.

26. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the catalyst for oxidizing said particles comprises at least one element selected from manganese, iron, copper, sodium, nickel and scandium.

27. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the oxidation catalyst is present in a form of an oxide.

28. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the at least one other element is selected from Groups IB, VIIB and VIII of the periodic table.

29. (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein the at least one element is copper, manganese or iron.

30. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the derivative is a salt, sol or organic complex.

31. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein the amount of oxidation catalyst seeded at the level of the carbonaceous particles is between 0.1% and 15%, expressed by weight of the catalytic element relative to the weight of the carbonaceous particle.

32. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the amount of oxidation catalyst is at least 2% expressed by weight of the catalytic element relative to the weight of the carbonaceous particle.

33. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of metal oxides of the platinum group.

34. (New) The process according to claim 33, wherein the metal oxides of the platinum group is rhodium oxide.

35. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein simple oxides or mixed oxides are transition metal oxides.

36. (New) The process according to claim 35, wherein the transition metal oxide is based on at least one of cerium, manganese and the perovskite systems.

37. (New) The process according to claim 36, wherein the transition metal oxide is CeO_2 , Mn_2O_3 , $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CeO}_2$, or $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CeO}_2\text{ZrO}_2$.

38. (New) A process for combustion treatment of carbonaceous particles collected on a filter situated in an exhaust circuit of an internal combustion engine, comprising contacting said particles with a gas mixture comprising at least nitrogen dioxide generated within the exhaust circuit of said engine, and thus combusting the particles, said particles having been seeded prior to combustion of the particles with an oxidation catalyst consisting of cerium.

39. (New) The process according to claim 38, wherein the oxidation catalyst is present in a form of an oxide.

40. (New) A process for combustion treatment of carbonaceous particles collected on a filter situated in an exhaust circuit of an internal combustion engine, comprising contacting said particles with a gas mixture comprising at least nitrogen dioxide generated within the exhaust circuit of said engine, and thus combusting the particles, said particles having been seeded prior to combustion of the particles with an oxidation catalyst consisting of iron.

41. (New) The process according to claim 40, wherein the oxidation catalyst is present in a form of an oxide.

42. (New) A process for combustion treatment of carbonaceous particles collected on a filter situated in an exhaust circuit of an internal combustion engine, comprising contacting said particles with a gas mixture comprising at least nitrogen dioxide generated within the exhaust circuit of said engine, and thus combusting the particles, said particles having been seeded prior to combustion of the particles with an oxidation catalyst consisting of a cerium and iron.

43. (New) The process according to claim 42, wherein the oxidation catalyst is present in a form of an oxide.